

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the July 8, 2004 Office Action (the "Office Action") in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 69, 71, 74, 85, 99 and 100 are amended, and claim 104 is cancelled.

1 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 71 and 74 are amended to overcome the 35 USC § 112 rejection set forth in ¶ 2 of the Office Action. In particular, applicants have replaced "the oligomer" with "the polymer".

2 Claim Punctuation Objection

Claim 85 is amended to overcome the objection to punctuation set forth in ¶ 3 of the Office Action, and to provide an antecedent basis for the elements as shown in the amended claim. Claims 87, 92, 94 and 110 depend from claim 85, and the objection to these claims is overcome by the amendment to claim 85.

In ¶ 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 89, 90 and 93 as being dependent upon rejected base Claim 85. The applicants note that claim 85 was not rejected in the Office Action, but was only objected to in ¶ 3. The applicants have amended claim 85 to overcome this objection; consequently, the objection to claims 89, 90 and 93 is rendered moot.

3 Form and Limitation Objection

Applicants have amended claim 100 to overcome the objection to claim 100 under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) set forth in ¶ 4 of the Office action. In particular, claim 100 has been rewritten in independent form as proposed by the Examiner. Furthermore, applicants have introduced an additional step to show how the compounds having the structure of Formula V are converted to the structure of Formula II. This particular step finds its support in the specification on page 96, col. 27-30, and page 97, col. 1-7.

4 Cancellation of Claim 104

The applicants have cancelled claim 104 as proposed by the Examiner.

5 Amendments to Claims 69 and 99

Claims 69 and 99 are amended to correct minor errors identified by the applicants. In particular, claim 69 is amended to recite a "polypropylene glycol moiety" and to eliminate the term "lower alkyl" in order to render the language of claim 69 consistent with the language of its parent, claim 72. Claim 99 is amended to correct the misspelling of the term "reacting".

Conclusions

Based on the foregoing arguments, and the arguments previously presented in the response to the July 8, 2004 Office Action, the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. No fee is believed to be due at this time. Nonetheless, if it is determined that any fee or charge is properly payable in connection with the entry of this Amendment, the U.S. Patent Office is hereby authorized to be charged such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

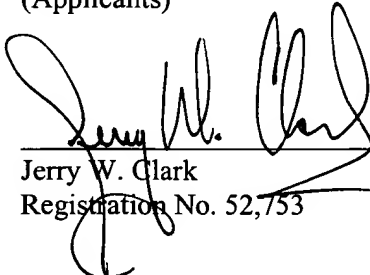
If any issues remain outstanding incident to the allowance of the application, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 919-286-8104. In the event that the undersigned attorney cannot be reached, the Examiner is requested to contact William A. Barrett at 919-286-8128.

Respectfully submitted,

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